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A NEW AGELAIUS FROM CANADA.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

WHEN Mr. Ridgway described his *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*¹ he possessed comparatively few breeding birds from either the United States or Canada. He therefore supposed that the breeding range of his new form was restricted to Canada, and that *Agelaius phœniceus phœniceus* extended westward over the Great Plains of the United States to the base of the Rocky Mountains. Considerable additional material, however, from Texas, Colorado; and British America, shows conclusively that, in the breeding season, *Agelaius p. phœniceus* reaches little, if any, beyond the eastern border of the Great Plains; that *Agelaius p. fortis* occupies the Plains from northwestern Texas to Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming; while still another form occurs in the region to the northward. The type of *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*, an autumn female from Omaha, Nebraska, belongs clearly to the southern, paler form; and as the Canadian race is thus without a name, it may be called

***Agelaius phœniceus arctolegus* subsp. nov.**

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*, but female decidedly darker below, the streaks more blackish and more extensive, about as broad as the white interspaces; above more blackish. Male with wing and tail averaging shorter; bill larger; and buff of wing-coverts somewhat paler.

Geographical distribution.—Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and northern Michigan, north to Keewatin, Athabaska, and Mackenzie; in migration south to Colorado, Texas, Illinois, and probably Ohio.

Description.—Type, adult female, No. 195233, U. S. N. M., Biological Survey Collection; Fort Simpson, Mackenzie, May 26, 1904; Edward A. Preble. Entire upper surface, including wings and tail, clove brown, with narrow marginings of buff or whitish, these most conspicuous on crown, nape, and wings, the back with a few rusty edgings; a rather ill-defined superciliary stripe of buffy whitish mixed with brown; sides of head dull buffy streaked with brown, and with a postocular and a rictal streak of sepia; lores dusky; sides of neck like the nape, but more mixed with whitish; chin salmon pink with a few faint flecks of dusky; throat white, washed with salmon pink, and narrowly streaked with clove brown, broadly so on each side; jugulum and breast white, broadly streaked with

¹ Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., III, 1901, p. 153.

clove brown, the light and dark colors here being about equal in extent; abdomen and crissum clove brown, all the feathers edged with white; lining of wing sepia brown, the coverts with buffy and whitish edgings.

This new form is much like *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus* in color, the male in this respect being practically indistinguishable, and the female barely less blackish above and below; but in size *A. p. arctolegus* is much greater, as the subjoined measurements will show. It differs from *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis* in larger size; in more blackish upper parts, broader and darker streaks on the lower surface of the female; and paler buff on the shoulder of the male.

Breeding females from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, near Minneapolis, are rather smaller and occasionally paler below, thus verging toward *Agelaius p. fortis*; but males from the same locality show little or no intergradation. A specimen from Fort Keogh, Montana, taken May 12, 1889, probably represents the summer form of that locality, even though this individual may not have been on its breeding ground. True *Agelaius p. fortis* has not been detected east of the Mississippi River, and all records of this form from the east belong probably under *A. p. arctolegus*. The ranges of these two giant subspecies, in so far as indicated by the specimens at present examined, are as follows:

Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus.

Alberta.—Slave River, 25 miles below Peace River;¹ Outlet of Athabaska Lake;¹ Rocher River, 20 miles above mouth of Peace River.¹

Keewatin.—Painted Stone Portage, head of Echimamish River (north-east of Norway House);¹ Robinson Portage, Franklin River (east of Painted Stone Portage).¹

Mackenzie.—Fort Smith;¹ Fort Simpson;¹ Fort Resolution;¹ Big Island, Great Slave Lake;¹ Fort Rae.¹

Manitoba.—Red River Settlement.¹

Saskatchewan.—St. Louis.

Colorado.—Semper.

Illinois.—Jacksonville; Bloomington.

Michigan.—Isle Royale;¹ Porcupine Mts., Ontonagon County.¹

Minnesota.—Fort Snelling.¹

Montana.—Fort Keogh.

North Dakota.—Pembina.¹

Texas.—Seguin.

¹ Breeding.

Agelaius phoeniceus fortis.

Colorado.—Valmont;¹ Semper; Denver; Golden;¹ Loveland;¹ Pueblo;¹ Estes Park.¹

Nebraska.—Omaha; Cherry County.¹

New Mexico.—Aztec.

Texas.—Canadian;¹ El Paso; Lipscomb;¹ Hereford;¹ Cuero.

Wyoming.—Inyankara.

In the present investigation the writer has been much aided by access to the collection of the United States National Museum, through Mr. Ridgway's courtesy; and by the loan of Michigan material, for which thanks are due to the authorities of the University of Michigan Museum at Ann Arbor.

Measurements (in millimeters) of the forms of *Agelaius phoeniceus* here concerned are as follows:

Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.

Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth of bill at base.	Tarsus.
♂	Kershaw Co., S. C.	Feb. 18, 1904	118.	91.5	21.	12.	29.
♂	" "	"	122.	92.5	20.5	11.	28.
♂	Indianapolis, Ind.	Mar. 24, 1877	119.5	91.5	21.5	11.	29.
♂	Wheatland, Ind.	May 20, 1885	117.	84.	23.	12.5	30.
♂	Syracuse, N. Y.	Apr. 2, 1887	117.5	92.	21.5	12.5	30.
♂	Franklin, W. Va.	July 12, 1899	121.	94.	21.	12.5	29.
♂	Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	June 22, 1895	114.	86.5	21.5	11.5	29.5
♂	Cook Co., Ill.	Mar. 23, 1870	118.	90.5	22.	12.	29.
♂	Omaha, Neb.	Mar. 14, 1878	122.	91.5	21.5	12.5	29.
♂	Laurel, Md.	July 7, 1889	119.	91.5	22.5	12.	30.5
Average of ten males			118.8	90.6	21.6	12.0	29.3
♀	Calais, Me.	May 12. ('69?)	99.	77.	19.	9.5	25.5
♀	Kershaw Co., S. C.	Mar. 7, 1904	102.	78.	17.5	9.5	25.
♀	West Chester, Pa.	Apr. 10, 1883	99.5	72.5	19.	10.	25.
♀	Baltimore, Md.	—	98.	75.	19.	10.5	24.5
♀	Wheatland, Ind.	May 25, 1885	97.5	75.	18.5	10.	25.5
♀	" "	May 14, 1885	99.	72	19.5	10.	26.5
♀	Cook Co., Ill.	Apr. 21, 1870	102.	75.5	19.5	11.	26.5
♀	Washington, D. C.	May 19, 1889	99.	76.5	19.	10.5	26.
♀	Bainbridge, Pa.	—	98.	75.5	17.5	10.5	24.
♀	Allentown, Pa.	May, 1885,	102.	77.5	19.	11.	26.5
Average of ten females			99.6	75.5	18.8	10.3	25.5

¹ Breeding.

Agelaius phæniceus fortis.

Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth of bill at base.	Tar- sus.
♂	Estes Park, Colo.	Aug. 1, 1893	128.	92.5	21.5	12.	30.5
♂	Golden, "	June 19, 1905	128.5	98.	20.5	11.5	29.
♂	Valmont, "	June 15, 1905	137.	105.	23.	12.	30.
♂	Pueblo, "	July 31, 1874	128.	99.	22.	12.	30.
♂	Loveland, "	July 19, 1895	127.5	96.	21.5	12.5	32.
♂	Cherry Co., Neb.	June 20, 1889	127.5	95.5	23.	11.5	31.
♂	Hereford, Tex.	July 24, 1901	125.	89.	22.	12.	31.
♂	Canadian, Tex.	July 14, 1903	127.5	98.	23.	12.	32.5
♂	Lipscomb, Tex.	July 5, 1903	132.	97.	24.	11.	29.5
♂	Aztec, New Mex.	Dec. 5, 1893	134	102.	20.5	10.5	31.
♂	Semper, Colo.	Mar. 24, 1890	134.	106.	20.	11.	31.
Average of eleven males			129.7	98.0	21.9	11.6	30.7
♀	Omaha, Neb. ¹	Mar. 9, 1878	105.5	77.5	18.	11.5	26.5
♀	Semper, Colo.	Dec. 29, 1892	104.5	76.	18.5	11.	26.
♀	Valmont, "	June 16, 1905	102.	74.5	18.	10.5	27.5
♀	Canadian, Tex.	July 14, 1903	104.	75.5	20.5	11.	26.
♀	El Paso, "	Feb. 5, 1892	103.	73.5	18.	10.	25.5
♀	" "	"	102.	73.5	18.	11.	26.5
♀	Lipscomb, "	July 7, 1903	105.	78.	18.5	10.	26.
Average of seven females			103.7	75.5	18.5	10.7	26.3

Agelaius phæniceus arctolegus.

Sex.	Locality.	Date	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth of bill at base.	Tar- sus.
♂	Robinson Portage, Kee.	June 27, 1900	127.	94.5	26.	12.5	28.5
♂	— Saskatchewan	—	121.5	93.	26.5	13.	29.5
♂	Rocher River, Alberta	June 5, 1901	122.	88.	24.	13.	32.5
♂	Slave River, "	June 12, 1901	125.5	91.	24.5	12.5	31.
♂	" "	June 12, 1901	124.	91.	23.5	12.5	30.5
♂	Athabaska Lake, "	June 4, 1901	123.5	90.	23.	13.	30.5
♂	Fort Smith, Mackenzie	June 21, 1901	126.5	96.5	25.5	12.	28.5
♂	Fort Simpson, "	May 18, 1904	125.5	91.	23.	13.	29.
♂	Pembina, N. Dak.	June 19, 1873	126.	92.	22.5	12.	30.
♂	Fort Snelling, Minn.	May 28, 1903	126.	91.	22.5	11.5	30.5
♂	" "	Mar. 30, 1903	130.	100.	24.	13.5	29.
♂	Isle Royale, Mich.	Aug. 18, 1905	127.5	92.5	22.5	14.	30.
Average of twelve males			125.4	92.5	24.0	12.7	30.0

¹ Type.

Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus (continued).

Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth of bill at base.	Tar- sus.
♀	Slave River, Alberta	June 12, 1901	102.5	74.5	19.5	11.	26.
♀	Ft. Simpson, Mackenzie ¹	May 26, 1904	104.5	74.	19.	11.	26.
♀	" "	May 27, 1904	101.	73.	18.	10.5	27.5
♀	Seguin, Texas	Nov. 8, 1904	104.5	77.	19.	10.5	28.5
♀	Semper, Colo.	Dec. 29, 1892	103.5	74.5	17.	10.	25.5
♀	Fort Smith, Mackenzie	June 21, 1901	106.	79.	19.5	10.5	26.
♀	Fort Snelling, Minn.	May 28, 1903	97.	72.	17.5	10.	26.
♀	" "	"	101.	78.	18.	8.5	24.5
♀	" "	"	100.	73.5	19.	10.	24.5
♀	" "	"	100.	75.	18.	10.	24.
♀	Isle Royale, Mich.	Aug. 18, 1905	107.	78.	20.	11.	29.
Average of eleven females			102.5	75.3	18.6	10.3	26.1

¹ Type.